

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01

/051 W

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R 231659Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1054

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

UNCLAS LONDON 06259

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK

SUBJECT: UK BASIC TREND OF UNEMPLOYMENT IS STILL RISING

BUT RATE OF INCREASE HAS FALLEN OFF SUBSTANT-
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1. UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES RELEASED APRIL 22 BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT (DE) SHOW THAT ALTHOUGH THE
OVERALL TOTAL OF UNEMPLOYED IN THE UK DECREASED SLIGHTLY
BY 3,788 IN THE MONTH TO MID-APRIL, THE BASIC MEASURE OF

UNEMPLOYED, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TOTAL EXCLUDING
SCHOOL-LEAVERS, INCREASED BY 7,200 FOLLOWING THE DECREASE
OF 6,000 IN MARCH. ACCORDING TO SOME SECTIONS OF THE
PRESS, THE LATEST FIGURES ARE A "DISAPPOINTMENT" AFTER
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THE MARCH IMPROVEMENT. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH THE BASIC

TREND IS STILL RISING, THE FIGURES SHOW THAT THE RATE OF INCREASE HAS FALLEN OFF SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. THIS SLOWDOWN IN THE UPWARD MOVEMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT HAS OCCURED MUCH EARLIER THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED AND MAY BE DUE IN PART TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM OF JOB PROTECTION AND JOB CREATION.

2. TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UK DECREASED IN THE MONTH TO APRIL 8 BY 3,788 TO 1,281,117 OR 5.5 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE. IN GREAT BRITAIN, WHICH EXCLUDES NORTHERN IRELAND, THE TOTAL DECREASED BY 3,355 TO 1,231,218 OR 5.4 PERCENT. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OF THE TOTAL UNEMPLOYED IN GREAT BRITAIN 210,000 HAD BEEN UNEMPLOYED FOR FOUR WEEKS OR LESS AND THAT ABOUT 900,000 WERE UNEMPLOYED FOR MORE THAN FOUR WEEKS, AND WERE AGED UNDER 60.

3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND EXCLUDING SCHOOL-LEAVERS, THE GREAT BRITAIN UNEMPLOYED TOTAL INCREASED BY 7,200 TO 1,185,800 OR 5.2 PERCENT. THIS COMPARED WITH A DECREASE OF 6,200 IN MARCH BUT INCREASES OF 21,300, 35,000 AND 42,000 IN THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS. ON AVERAGE OVER THE THREE MONTHS ENDED APRIL THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TOTAL INCREASED BY 8,000 A MONTH COMPARED WITH 17,000 A MONTH IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 32,000 A MONTH IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY AND 40,000 A MONTH IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDED JANUARY.

4. THE NUMBER OF JOBS AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS INCREASED OVER THE MONTH ENDED APRIL 2 BY 10,486 TO 117,396 WHICH SEASONALLY ADJUSTED WAS AN INCREASE OF 1,900 TO 121,800 COMPARED WITH AN INCREASE OF 2,400 IN MARCH AND A DECREASE OF 14,251 IN FEBRUARY. JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE INCREASED IN APRIL BY 2,368 TO 23,594.

5. ON A REGIONAL BASIS, THE FIGURES SHOW THAT SCOTLAND SUFFERED THE WORST INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT IN APRIL WITH A RISE OF 4,400 TO 139,000 ON A SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS GIVING AN UNEMPLOYED RATE OF 6.5 PERCENT. UNEMPLOYMENT ALSO INCREASED FAIRLY SUBSTANTIALLY IN WALES BRINGING THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TO 7.0 PERCENT, IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NORTH GIVING A RATE OF 6.9 PERCENT, THE NORTHWEST, 6.4 PERCENT, AND THE SOUTHWEST, 6.2 PERCENT. ALSO, IN THE SOUTHEAST, USUALLY A REGION OF HIGH EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AGAIN INCREASED BY OVER 1,000 BRINGING THE RATE TO 3.9 PERCENT. HOWEVER, IN THE WEST MIDLANDS, THE UNEMPLOYED TOTAL FELL SHARPLY BY 2,000 BRINGING THE RATE TO 5.3 PERCENT COMPARED WITH 5.4 PERCENT IN MARCH.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNEMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON06259
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760155-1018
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760430/aaaaaywn.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 AUG 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <20 DEC 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK BASIC TREND OF UNEMPLOYMENT IS STILL RISING BUT RATE OF INCREASE HAS FALLEN OFF SUBSTANT-
TAGS: ELAB, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006